Principles of Family/Professional Collaboration

Family/professional collaboration:

Promotes a relationship in which family members and professionals work together to ensure the best services for the child and the family;

The focus begins with and remains on the child. We help each other refocus on the child when needed.

Recognizes and respects the knowledge, skills and experience that families and professionals bring to the relationship;

We communicate and behave in a manner demonstrating that everyone knows something needed by the team when making decisions. We show we understand and value the role of each partner.

Acknowledges that the development of trust is an integral part of a collaborative relationship;

We are trusting and trustworthy.

Facilitates open communication so that families and professionals feel free to express themselves;

Everyone listens carefully and talks "nice".

Creates an atmosphere in which the cultural traditions, values, and diversity of families are acknowledged and honored;

We behave nonjudgementally, honoring the differences among us. Our behaviors toward one another are accepting and based on reciprocity = What can I do for you and what can you do for me so this child is successful?

Recognizes that negotiation is essential in a collaborative relationship.

Everyone demonstrates a commitment to achieving "win-win" solutions.

Bring to the relationship the mutual commitment of families, professionals, and communities to meet the needs of children with special needs and their families.

We all behave in a way that recognizes that we all need

We all behave in a way that recognizes that we all need each other in order to be successful.

Principles from Family/Professional Collaboration for Children with Special Health Needs and Their Families "Behaviors" by Helen Post, Utah Parent Center